

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate Betsy Wright and her extraordinary career.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER J. FREEMAN

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the remarkable Peter J. Freeman, my Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is a passionate public servant, and talented member of my staff.

Peter first arrived on Capitol Hill, over two decades ago, as a humble House Page hailing from Bainbridge Island, Washington. He returned to the area soon thereafter to attend and graduate from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. He then found himself back on the Hill in the office of Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-OH), where he rose through the ranks, becoming Deputy Chief of Staff. Along the way, he worked on various bills, including a federal backstop for commercial terrorism insurance, a bill prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation, and various bills impacting affordable housing.

Peter developed an expertise on financial services issues, which served him well when he returned to Capitol Hill in my office. In his position, he helped me with flood insurance reform, economic regulatory relief, anti-money laundering, terrorism financing, housing finance, and credit score competition legislation, among others.

Peter did a remarkable job in managing my office. He helped me assemble a great team, provided valuable counsel; and helped me to fulfill my vision during our time together. While I am retiring, Peter will always be an esteemed and unforgettable member of the Royce Team. His dedicated intellect, his wit, and his ability to connect with people on all levels and all sides of the political spectrum are qualities that make him a rare entity on Capitol Hill. But Peter's greatest asset is his passion to serve. And I am grateful that he chose to serve my constituents of the 39th District of California, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the nation.

I thank Peter, and wish him the very best of luck for the next chapter of his life.

#### CONGRATULATING JOHN DAVID ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM WQAD

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John David, who is retiring from Moline, Illinois' TV station, WQAD. Mr. David has been reporting for 29 years at WQAD and has become an integral part of the Quad Cities community.

Mr. David grew up in Southern California, where he began his broadcasting career at age 16 for KCSN-FM. He graduated cum laude from Occidental College in Los Angeles

with degrees in Political Science and Theater Arts and Rhetoric. He then went on to receive a Master's degree in Broadcast Journalism with distinction from Northwestern University. Mr. David is best known for reporting on the rise and fall of American manufacturing and its toll on the workforce. His documentary, "Where Did the Jobs Go?" received the 2006 Regional RTNDA Edward R. Murrow Award for a news documentary. As a former reporter, I understand the demands of this work and thank David for his commitment to informing our community.

It is because of dedicated community leaders such as Mr. David that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. David on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

#### COL. TONY JACK BUCKLES, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

### HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Col. Tony Jack Buckles, U.S. Army (Ret.) and his years of dedication to our country and the communities of California's 51st Congressional District.

Col. Tony Jack Buckles, of Pensacola, FL passed away at the age of 69 on December 5, 2018 following a heroic battle with cancer. He is survived by: his wife of 49 years, Nancy C. Buckles; his children: Jonathan (Lauren) Buckles; and Elizabeth (James) Deck; his six beautiful granddaughters: Brenton, Madeline, Catherine, and Elizabeth Buckles and Emilia and Enslie Deck and his mother, Billie Buckles.

Tony was born on November 5, 1949 to Jack and Billie Buckles in Elizabethton, TN. Tony was an alumnus of East Tennessee State University. He was commissioned in June of 1971 as an Armor Officer and after graduating the Armor Officer Orientation Course, Airborne School, and Ranger School, Tony began his distinguished service assigned to the U.S. Army's Third Armored Division in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Tony graduated from many courses, including the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the United States Marine Corp's Command and Staff College, and achieved the status of distinguished graduate of the National War College at Fort McNair, Washington, DC. Tony's esteemed service led to the fulfillment of a career-long goal of being selected as the Battalion Commander for 1/70 Armor, in the U.S. Army's 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, at Fort Polk, LA, where his battalion was selected as the first in the Division to field the Army's newest battle tank at the time, the M1 Abrams. Tony went on to serve honorably as the Garrison Commander for the U.S. Army's III Armored Corps at Fort Hood, TX, with his military career ultimately concluding with the privilege of serving the U.S. House of Representatives in the U.S. Army's Congressional Liaison Office.

Over the course of Tony's career, he received numerous awards and recognition for his service, culminating with being awarded

the U.S. Army's Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in duties of great responsibility. Following his retirement, after 30 years of service, Tony became the Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman Bob Filner, 51st District, California from 2001–2012.

On behalf of California's 51st Congressional District, I would like to formally honor the memory of Col. Tony Jack Buckles on his years of dedicated service to the nation and California's 51st Congressional District.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 2018 the House took roll call votes on a series of bills which included, H.R. 4451, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2018. Unintentionally, I voted no on this legislation when I meant to vote yes. My recorded vote does not reflect my position on the important programs and support services for homeless veterans that were reauthorized in H.R. 4451 and I look forward to working with my colleagues to expand services that help our veterans thrive as civilians after their brave service to our country has concluded.

#### HONORING MR. RANDY ESPINET; A CUBAN-AMERICAN LEADER IN OUR SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Randy Espinet has been a leading figure in our Cuban-American community for decades.

A fellow graduate of the University of Miami, my alma mater, Randy has devoted his time to improving our beloved community each and every day.

He never ceases to put the needs of others before his own, and his determination to better the lives of those around him is a testament to his character.

As a political activist in South Florida, Randy works hard to advocate for those who need it most.

Whether he is supporting national Cuban-American initiatives—or advocating for a noble cause at the municipal or state level—his commitment to public service is unwavering, and South Florida is proud to have him in our corner.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Randy Espinet, an upstanding member of our community, and I am confident that he will continue to better our slice of paradise for years to come.

Thank you (Gracias) to Randy for all he does.